

Nero Was Some Tyrant But Many a Woman Will Tell You He Was a Poor Second to the Man With Whom She Is Most Intimately Acquainted

## BATTLE OF VERDUN NOW BEGINNING NINTH WEEK

Most Gigantic Conflict in History of World Wars

LOSSES FRIGHTFULLY HEAVY

Destruction of Human Life Exceeds That in Any Other Campaign of Present Struggle.

London, April 16.—The most gigantic conflict in the history of the world the battle of Verdun, has entered upon its ninth week. The enormous scale of the attack, the unparalleled concentration of artillery and the sustained ferocity of the fighting efforts of the battle as one of the great efforts of the war.

Another French counter attack in the region south of Douaumont on the east bank of the Meuse, was successfully carried out late yesterday afternoon. German trench elements against which the attack was directed, were captured and 200 prisoners, including two officers were taken.

The lull in the German offensive in the Verdun region, which has been interpreted as indicating elaborate preparations for a resumption of the attack, still continues. No attempt was made at an advance by the German infantry last night or today, but the German heavy artillery directed a heavy bombardment today against the section Bois d'Avocourt—Hill 304 where the Germans have expended much of their energy recently. Both German and French artillery was engaged today in the Douaumont region and there were scattered artillery duels in the Woivre.

Verdun has been rated as one of the strongest fortresses of Europe, a cornerstone of the French defenses against Germany. The evolution of military tactics during the war, however, and particularly the employment by the Germans of long range howitzers, capable of reducing the greatest forts, have done much to change the character of the Verdun campaign from the earlier conceptions of such a struggle.

Before the battle opened the French partly dismantled their forts around Verdun and placed, chief reliance for resistance on an elaborate system of trenches.

In no previous battle were the losses as high as those which have been estimated in the fighting around Verdun. These estimates, however, cannot be regarded as conclusive evidence, for neither Germany nor France has announced its own casualties. The French war office has declared the Germans have lost 200,000 in killed, wounded and captured. The Germans state semi-officially that the French casualties number 150,000 killed and wounded and that 36,000 unwounded French prisoners have been taken. Taking these estimates nearly 400,000 men have been eliminated as fighting units.

The ground occupied by the Germans after fifty-six days of offensive operations may be roughly calculated as 100 square miles. They have forced back the French from their outlying positions to their definite line of resistance along the semi-circular front from the edge of the Argonne eastward across the Meuse and southward into the Woivre. For the most part this main line has withstood the shock of successive attacks.

## Europe's Blinded Thousands

ASK YOUR IMMEDIATE AID

Thousands of battle-blinded French, English, Belgian soldiers! Helpless! Hopeless! Unable to support themselves and families!

For Humanity's Sake, 'Help Them

Your single contribution will go far toward training one of these blinded soldiers in a practical, paying trade not requiring sight and will support him meantime.

Don't hesitate to do a kind act. Every day's delay means one day more of despair for one of these specially unfortunate sufferers.

As local sub-treasurer of the B. F. B. Permanent Blind Relief War Fund, 550 Fifth Avenue, New York City, of which Mr. Frank A. Vanderlip of New York, Sir Edward Holden of England and M. George Pallain of France are honorary treasurers, I will receive and forward all contributions, large and small.

CHAS. H. DEWEY, Treasurer

Bennington Co. Savings Bank.

Forward gifts promptly.

## CATERPILLER EGG CONTEST WON BY GEORGE SPARGO

Takes First Prize of \$10 With Score of 7925

MISS SUE HUNTINGTON SECOND

Total of 24,349 Egg Clusters Turned Over to Street Commissioner E. S. Buss.

George Spargo won the grand prize of \$10 in the contest for the largest number of egg clusters of the orchard tent caterpillar. The second prize of \$5 was won by Miss Sue Huntington.

The contest closed Saturday when the competitors made their final reports to Street Commissioner E. S. Buss who was largely instrumental in raising the money for the commendable project.

A total of 24,349 clusters were collected and turned over to the street commissioner and the work of the young people should make a considerable reduction in the amount of damage by the caterpillars in this section this year.

More egg clusters would have been collected but for the deep snow that fell in March and which interfered with the work of the contestants. Following is the list of winners and the amount of the prizes and the number of egg clusters collected:

George Spargo, \$10.00,	7925
Miss Sue Huntington, \$5.00,	6820
Hamilton Shields, \$3,	5050
Frank Hodeck, \$2,	2049
Waldo Holden, \$1,	990
Walter Atwood, \$1,	708
Howard Hicks, \$1,	279
Raymond Randles, \$1,	159
David Shmilinsky, \$1,	103
George Passenault, \$1,	131
Howard Armstrong, \$1,	60
Beatrice Randles, \$1,	58
Others,	107
Total,	24349

## SIR SAM HUGHES RETURNS

Ready for Closest Scrutiny of Canadian Munitions Charges.

Sir Sam Hughes, minister of militia and defense for Canada, arrived at New York yesterday on his way to Canada to answer charges of alleged favoritism in the expenditure of money for the purchase of munitions of war. "I regret having to leave England at present," he said, "but I am delighted with the opportunity to return and place each and every fact regarding contracts for munitions where they can be exposed to the closest scrutiny."

## BULGARS FIGHT GERMANS

Four Reported Killed in a Row Over a Telegraph Station.

London, April 16.—A Reuter dispatch from Saloniki states that in a dispute for the possession of a telegraph office in a village west of Lake Ochrida a fight resulted between Germans and Bulgarians in which four were killed and several wounded.

## POLISH RELIEF APPROVED

Russian Government Will Give Full Leeway to Rockefeller Aid.

Petrograd, April 16.—The plan for sending foodstuffs to Russian Poland, submitted to the Russian Government, has met with approval, says the semi-official Petrograd News Agency, which "in view of the sensational information that has been disseminated that the Russian Government has placed obstacles in the way of American philanthropists desiring to assist the inhabitants of Russian Poland occupied by Germany," makes the following explanation:

"The relief plan will take the following shape: The Rockefeller Foundation will undertake the task of supplying food to the inhabitants of six Polish city centers. The Germans on their part, are to make provision for the remainder of the occupied country, at the same time insuring entire freedom of the American enterprise, guaranteeing that foodstuffs shall not be exported from Poland and forbidding their troops using local foodstuffs."

## GREEN CUT BONE

—AT—

McCue's Market

## CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

The Kind You Have Always Bought

Bears the Signature of J. C. Watson

## OPENING OF TROUT SEASON BEST IN YEARS

Conditions Unfavorable But Some Record Catches Were Made

SOME BIG FISH LANDED

Best Reports Came from Furnace Brook in Bennington and Warm Brook in Shaftsbury.

Contrary to all predictions, the opening of the trout season Saturday was one of the most successful in years. Although the ground was covered with snow and the mercury below freezing point when the early fishermen fished to their favorite localities the water conditions were found to be much more favorable than had been expected.

Many a trout was landed early in fact the water was so clear that careful fishing was required to escape being seen by the trout.

Furnace brook was the most frequented water in the immediate vicinity and every fisherman, even the boys, secured trout. Some of the catches were not large but they were better than those reported on opening days in previous years. The best record for Furnace brook was made by Chairman E. D. Moore of the board of license commissioners who made a limit catch.

The largest trout caught Saturday and yesterday came from Warm brook in Shaftsbury. The fishing was particularly good between the two small lakes that have been constructed by dams, one on the property of the Lake Shaftsbury association and the other on the Holden farm. G. P. Endress secured a limit catch on the steam Saturday, one of his fish measuring 14 inches and weighing a pound and two ounces. P. A. Matteson filled a basket on the stream on both days. Claire W. Soule likewise made a record catch yesterday Calvin Endress, who seldom goes fishing caught eight trout in Warm brook that weighed six pounds. One trout weighed one and one-quarter pounds. "Cal" says this was the last fish caught but Warden E. S. Higgins has engaged the entire staff of the Morgan & Wood detective agency who will endeavor to prove that the big trout was the first one landed and that the fisherman broke the bag limit.

As has been the case in previous years, the small boys enjoyed considerable sport in Dewey brook. This water, which flows through the residential section of the village, is one of the best natural trout streams of its size in the state.

## NEW PASSPORT LIMIT

Germany Will Issue None to Mere Pleasure Seekers.

Berlin, April 16, (via London).—No passports, it was announced yesterday, will be issued in the future to persons desiring to visit foreign countries purely for pleasure. The ruling applies also to Austria-Hungary, to which passports will be granted only on a physician's certificate that treatment in a specified Austrian or Hungarian resort is urgently necessary.

## T. N. PAGE AND WIFE SAIL

Ambassador at Rome on Steamer St. Louis, Bound for New York.

London, April 16.—The American steamship St. Louis sailed from Liverpool for New York at 8 o'clock, last night with Thomas Nelson Page, American Ambassador at Rome, and Mrs. Page on board.

Mrs. Page is on the way to the bed side of her brother, who is seriously ill.

## WEATHER FORECAST

For eastern New York and western Vermont showers this afternoon and tonight. Cooler tonight, Tuesday fair.

## CLASSIFIED

WANTED—Second hand porch awning. Address W. Banner office. 6116

WANTED—Two men boarders. Apply Mrs. Fred Phillips, McKinley St. 6116

WANTED—Bell boy at Wellington Hotel, North Adams. 6111

WANTED—100 Plymouth Rock hens 1 year old. The Orchards, tel. 261—M. Adv. 6112

WANTED—Office position by a young woman who has had years of experience in bookkeeping, shorthand, typewriting and supervision of office work. Address L. Banner office. 6116

FOR SALE—Household furniture of all kinds. James Fox, store open after noon and evenings, 206 River street. Horsehoesing in Depot shop, horsehoesing and jobbing in stone shop on South street. 6116

United States Troops Will Be Withdrawn Once It Is Proved Villa Is Dead.

San Antonio, Tex., April 17.—Lacking official advice confirming the rumored death of Pancho Villa, the Mexican bandit leader, Gen. Funston has not yet made any changes in his plan of campaign. Col. Pershing has been informed that Villa is in hiding in the mountains west of Parral.

Several Americans who know Villa are on a train today bound for Chihuahua where the body said to be that of the bandit chieftain is expected to arrive before night.

Washington, April 17.—American troops will be withdrawn from Mexico immediately if Francisco Villa is dead. Administration officials made this unqualified statement last night commenting on reports from Mexican sources that the bandit's body had been discovered and was being taken from Cuahurachi to Chihuahua City by special train. Neither the state nor war department had any confirmatory advice on the subject from American sources. Reports reaching El Paso and other border points were forwarded for information, but neither American consuls nor military authorities in Mexico were heard from.

There was no attempt at Washington to disguise the eager interest in the reported killing of the bandit. Every message received was closely scrutinized at the state department and sent to the White House. In some quarters there was a disposition to credit them notwithstanding the fact that border reports generally have been viewed with so much suspicion since the pursuit began.

Officials would not discuss what proof they would deem necessary to establish the fact that the body mentioned in these reports is that of Villa. It is certain, however, that every effort will be made to obtain so complete an identification as to make sure beyond reasonable doubt that the man who waged war with a few hundred bandits against the United States and the de facto government of Mexico simultaneously has paid the penalty. Consul Fletcher at Chihuahua should be able to make the identification.

Customs Collector Cobb at El Paso notified the state department late yesterday that Mexican customs officials at Juarez had told him the body of the bandit had been found and would be taken last night to Chihuahua City. The Mexican embassy earlier had received the following message from Mexican Consul Garcia at El Paso: "The telegraph operators at Cusi and Madera have informed me that they have found the body of Francisco Villa and that it will be conducted to Chihuahua."

San Antonio, Tex., April 17.—It was a force of Carranza soldiers who engaged the little detachment of American cavalry at Parral Wednesday in a regularly organized action, according to a detailed report written by Maj. Frank Tompkins and forwarded to Gen. Funston yesterday by Gen. Pershing.

Forty of the Mexican soldiers, including one major and one civilian were killed by the retreating Americans. The American casualties were two killed and six wounded, the latter including Maj. Tompkins. His wound was slight.

Maj. Tompkins' account of the action was received at Gen. Funston's headquarters last night and served to clarify Gen. Pershing's report received Saturday in which the identity of the attacking force was not stated and in which he left the inference that the cavalry was under Col. W. C. Brown.

The Americans now are north and west of Parral, reinforced by a squadron of the 10th cavalry under Maj. Young, accompanied by Col. W. C. Brown and a picked squadron under Maj. Robert Howse. Fears for their safety have been dispelled by this report and by troop dispositions that Gen. Pershing has ordered, but the character of which Gen. Funston did not wish to reveal.

Maj. Tompkins' story of the fight indicates lack of control over the troops by the commanding officer of the Parral garrison, Gen. Lozano, and bitter antagonism by the public and troops. The fighting took place outside of Parral and was continued over a route of eight miles to Santa Cruz, a station eight miles northeast of Parral on the railroad.

Gen. Funston said last night that while Maj. Tompkins undoubtedly acted in accordance with his best judgment in retreating, he regretted he had not made a stand on account of the ill-effects the story of his retreat

## REPORTED DEATH OF VILLA NOT CONFIRMED

Americans Who Know Bandit Will View Body at Chihuahua

MAY MEAN END OF EXPEDITION

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would have on the Mexican people, who will naturally regard the incident as an American defeat.

Maj. Tompkins arrived outside Parral on the forenoon of April 12 with two troops, M and K of the 13th cavalry, reduced in number. The total of these two troops is approximately 100 men. The report that unarmed men went into Parral appears to have been erroneous. Maj. Tompkins admits that he did march his small detachment quite openly along the trail into the city, where they were met by Gen. Lozano, who received them most graciously. The civil authorities arrived and joined in the courteous reception of the major and his troops. The incident appeared to be progressing without unpleasant features. Gen. Lozano and the civil authorities discussed with Maj. Tompkins the question of camping, he and the local officials deciding on a site just outside the city to which Maj. Tompkins was directed.

Maj. Tompkins entered the town on the invitation of an officer of the Parral garrison. He stated that the officer met him 10 miles from Parral. Introduced himself and urged him to accept the hospitality of the military and civil authorities. This fact, coupled with Maj. Tompkins' report of the subsequent attack, caused officials at San Antonio to express the opinion that he and his men had been deliberately led into a trap, although perhaps not with the knowledge of Gen. Lozano, commanding officer.

Maj. Tompkins was preparing to move out to the designated camp when soldiers and civilians began to throw stones and to shoot at the Americans. Realizing that the action was that of a mob of civilians and of soldiers who had gotten beyond the control of their officers, Maj. Tompkins made no stand, but retired his men without making resistance toward the city limits. Shouting crowds followed them without doing great damage.

It was afternoon when Tompkins led his men into a defensive position behind a railway embankment outside the town. The mob respected the advantage the Americans had taken, but soon there appeared on their flank a force of 300 Mexican troops, who began in military fashion a formal attack. Maj. Tompkins was still averse to fighting in anything but a defensive manner against this force, since every officer who has entered Mexico with the punitive force has had it impressed upon him that clashes with the troops of the de facto government, who are supposed to be co-operating with them in their pursuit of Villa and his bandits, must be avoided. Also it soon became apparent that the Mexicans' superiority in numbers made a retreat from the position behind the embankment imperative.

A retreat was begun that was ended only at Santa Cruz. The Mexicans pursued them almost the entire distance of the intervening eight miles, the Americans contenting themselves with a rear guard action. In the running fight the Americans cared for their dead and wounded.

Y. M. C. A. PLUMBING SHOP  
Now Provides a Net Income of \$12 a Month.

Our Y. M. C. A. building was completed and occupied just about nine years ago. The building committee, true to their agreement, had kept the cost within the amount subscribed, equipping the building, however, there were some \$600 of unpaid accounts. The question was what to do? It did not seem wise to solicit the funds at that time, and the suggestion was made that the plumbing shop be used as security for an \$800 loan. That \$200 of the amount be used to raise, provide foundation and repairs to put shop in rentable condition, and that the rentals be used to liquidate said note. This suggestion was adopted and Dec. 2, 1907 a note of \$800 was executed. A local party advanced the money and Homer H. Webster was made trustee to manage the property.

At the last meeting of the Board of Directors the trustee made his final report, stating amounts paid out for insurance, taxes and repairs, also that the original note of \$800 had been paid together with \$217.20 interest on same and a balance check of \$10.56 drawn to the treasurer of the Y. M. C. A.

In the meantime the trustees had collected the sum of \$1,094.50 in rentals from this shop. It shows how small sums count and how they may sometimes be used to bridge a gap or meet a need.

The ending of this trusteeship makes available to the Y. M. C. A. a new gross income of \$12 per month.

ALLIES' TROOPS OFF CRETE  
But No Troops Have Been Landed, Although Vessels Are Anchored.

London, April 16.—Entente Allied warships have anchored in Suda Bay, on the north coast of the island of Crete, says Reuter's Athens correspondent.

Card of Thanks.

I hereby wish to thank the friends and neighbors who so kindly assisted during the illness and death of my beloved brother.

Miss Bridget Gunshannon.

FISHING TACKLE  
All kinds rods repaired promptly. Guns and ammunition, books, leaders, etc.

McGURK, 645 Main St.

## NINETY THOUSAND DOLLARS GIVEN BY HENRY W. PUTNAM, JR. TO MAKE FATHERS GIFT AVAILABLE

Will Enable the Building of the New Putnam Memorial Hospital at Once Without Touching the Funds From the Water Works, Which Will Support the Institution

The sum of ninety thousand dollars has been given by Henry W. Putnam, Jr., to build the new Putnam Memorial hospital and the money becomes available as fast as needed to pay for construction.

This splendid gift comes entirely unsolicited and is made by Mr. Putnam to add to the magnificent present of the water works system made by his father, Henry W. Putnam three years ago to build and maintain a hospital. Mr. Putnam's letter is as follows:

New York, April 10, 1916.

To the Executive Committee

Henry W. Putnam Memorial Hospital

Bennington, Vermont

Gentlemen:

I purpose to give to Henry W. Putnam Memorial Hospital, if acceptable to it, the sum of ninety thousand dollars, to be used toward the erection of its hospital; the balance, should any remain after its completion, to be appropriated toward the equipment and maintenance of the same. Said sum to be paid from time to time as the work progresses.

Very respectfully

Henry W. Putnam, Jr.

Three years ago Henry W. Putnam gave to the village of Bennington the water works system variously valued at from \$250,000 to \$400,000. The income to be used to erect and maintain a hospital. With the gift came a gift to all the people of the town in the form of a reduction of domestic water rates one half, making the rates here lower than in other towns of similar size.

Even with this decrease in rates the income from the system has yielded over \$40,000 in three years, and is around \$15,000 yearly—and this above

the sinking fund account and the money used for extensions. The trustees planned to wait until the funds accumulated to nearly enough to build the hospital which from plans secured will be somewhere around ninety thousand dollars. This new gift by Henry W. Putnam, Jr., will enable the erection of the hospital this year without using the accumulated funds already on hand except as may be needed to equip the plant.

The plans are all ready and price were secured on the erection of the hospital last year, but it was found that it would leave the institution too much in debt and it was decided to wait until the fund had grown to larger proportions.

At the Putnam office has arrived a fine bronze bust of the late Henry W. Putnam. This bust will eventually be placed in the new hospital, but for the present it has been placed on a pedestal at the Putnam office where it may be seen.

It is a lifelike representation of Mr. Putnam as he appeared at the age of about 60 to 65, during the years when he was in the most active part of his career.

The bust is of heroic size and it was made by the famous New York sculptor O'Neill. He had only photographs to go by, but as he proceeded with the clay cast he called in Mr. Putnam's son, Mr. Morhous, Mr. Braisted and others who knew how Mr. Putnam looked. The result is that the bust is a wonderful likeness of Bennington's great benefactor.

## FINAL SESSION OF FORTNIGHTLY'S 24TH SEASON

Reports Show Organization in Prosperous Condition

ELECTIONS FOR COMING YEAR

Mrs. Irene C. Tirrell, after Three Years as President, Succeeded as President by Mrs. Frank E. Howe.

The twenty-fourth annual meeting of The Fortnightly on Saturday afternoon at the Congregational chapel marked the end of a most successful season and left the club with a very promising outlook for its quarter century year.

The opening business session presented interesting annual reports of the secretary and treasurer, the latter reporting a balance in the treasury large enough to allow the club to vote a full ten cent per capita donation of \$31.90 to the State Federation Scholarship fund and \$3 to the travelling library fund.

The nominating committee reported nearly an entire list of new officers, the secretary being the only exception. These officers were unanimously elected; Mrs. Frank E. Howe, president; Mrs. H. MacGregor Ritchie, vice-president; Mrs. Walter R. Mattison, secretary; Mrs. William S. Boynton, treasurer; Mrs. Grant L. Harbour, assistant treasurer. The retiring president, Mrs. Henry W. Tirrell, closes the term of three years of active service to the club and hearty appreciation of her work was voiced by the members through their representative Mrs. G. S. Mills, and by the presentation of a beautiful bouquet of roses. In responding, Mrs. Tirrell thanked the club members for their untiring loyalty and co-operation in the club work, and the later, in welcoming the new president, earnestly bespoke for her the same devotion, without which no president, however great her ability, may be able to express it. Mrs. Howe responded graciously and after adjourning the meeting was the recipient of many congratulations and kindly words of welcome to her new office.

The musical and literary program on "Bird Life in Bennington" prepared by Mrs. Lucretius S. Ross, was one of the

best presented this season and gave great pleasure as well as instruction. The first paper by Dr. L. H. Ross contained so much valuable and interesting data of the economic value of birds to the farm and orchard that it will be printed in full at an early date. Mrs. Ross told a number of experiences within the town limits which sounded almost like fairy tales to the unobservant citizen who cannot tell a lark from a sparrow. It is a privilege to hear a program on birds prepared by genuine bird lovers and the audience enjoyed it to the full as their applause testified. The exhibit of mounted birds loaned by Chelsea Harrington and Mrs. William H. Bradford was a most instructive part of the program and was much appreciated.